(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any road is being constructed for Nathu La;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the necessary arrangements that are being made by Government for Nathu La?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) There is no proposal of new Nathu La bypass road. The widening to 2-lane of 56 km existing GS Road from Gangtok to Nathula has been approved by the Government under Phase 'A' of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE).

**Dredging at Paradip Port**

1897. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Paradip port authorities have asked for sanction of revised estimates for dredging work to deepen the navigable channel, etc.

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) the time-frame within which the revised estimates would be sanctioned if not already done?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Paradip Port Trust has sought Government's approval to their Revised Cost Estimate of the Project for Deepening of Channel at Paradip Port. The project is under process for obtaining the requisite approval.

**Traffic density on NH-9**

1898. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that NH-9 has highest density of vehicular traffic and is ranked No.3 among the National Highways in terms of traffic handling;